A New Beginning
God's grace is too good for our good
Kevin Harvestbell

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By

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Did He spare His begotten son? No!

Then, He will spare you because He did not spare His own.

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1

God's amazing Grace

The best things come from Heaven. And they are all free and are too good for our good! Such is what comes to us by God's amazing grace.

> ***"That in the ages to come he might shew the exceeding riches of his grace in his kindness toward us through Christ Jesus. For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God. -(Ephesians 2:7-8).***

The beginning of the tragedy

Giving a snapshot of how things went like in the past, Joe wrote: "Angels must have wept when they saw sin come into the human family for the first time.

Immediately, all of those original provisions began to be withdrawn. Adam and Eve began to die according to the pronouncement of God; their dominion passed for the time into the hands of Satan; the image of righteousness was marred within them; and they were driven out of the garden home."[1]

God's servant giving light about such great disappointment moments wrote, "with a Holy sadness Jesus comforted and cheered the angels and informed them that hereafter those whom He should redeem would be with Him and by His death He should ransom many and destroy him who had power of death. And His father would give Him the kingdom under the whole heaven, and He would possess it forever and ever. Satan and sinners would be destroyed, nevermore to disturb heaven or the purified new earth. Jesus bade the heavenly host be reconciled to the plan that His Father had accepted and rejoice that through His death fallen man could be exalted and obtain favor with God and enjoy heaven.[2]

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[1] Joe Crews*, Heaven- is it for real?* P.5 Amazing facts CA. USA 2003.

[2] Ellen G White, *The story of redemption and steps to Christ p.38 para 2.,* Everlasting Gospel Publishing Association, Seoul, Korea, 2006.

When God gave Jesus Christ as the atoning sacrifice- God gave us everything. A clear understanding of who is Christ is shown in the Bible. See John 1 as follows:

1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.

2 The same was in the beginning with God.

3 All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made.

4 In him was life; and the life was the light of men." John 1:1-4.

From the above text we understand that God gave us the creator to redeem us. In other words the creator is the redeemer; He created us and saved us from sin. We are saved from God's wrath by God's Grace. (Creation and redemption is God's work). ***"For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved"- John 3:17-18***

Grace is the unmerited abounding provision of the unrestrained operation of God's infinite love, through Jesus Christ; in behalf of man, especially those who depend upon Him….it is a provision of God to restore all that was lost spiritually because man sinned, and makes possible and sustains a new creation on a far higher plane than any other creation. Truly, Grace is a great

provision of God. It is summed up in words: 'He that spared not His own son, but delivered Him up for us all, how shall He not with Him also freely give us all things?[3]

Grace is the abundant saving love of God manifested to sinners, has always been available to men (See on psalm 51:1-17)[4]

Grace as Titus says it is God's power to save us from sin:

> *"That having been justified by His grace we should become heirs according to the hope of eternal life"- Titus 3:7 NKJV*

The kingdom of grace was instituted immediately after the fall of man.... Yet it was not actually established until the death of Christ. Even after entering upon His earthly mission, the Saviour ... might have drawn back from the sacrifice of Calvary. In Gethsemane the cup of woe trembled in His hand. He might even then have wiped the blood-sweat from His brow, and have left the guilty race to perish in their iniquity.... But when the Saviour yielded up His life, and with His expiring breath cried out,

[3] J.F Stormbeck, *Disciplined by Grace, pages 13, 14*

[4] SDA Bible Commentary *vol. 7,* P. 366.6.

"It is finished," then the fulfillment of the plan of redemption was assured. The promise of salvation made to the sinful pair in Eden was ratified. The kingdom of grace, which had before existed by the promise of God, was then established.[5]

Christ did not yield up His life till He had accomplished the work which He came to so, and with His parting breath He exclaimed, "it is finished." John 19:30. The battle had been won. His right hand and His Holy arm had gotten Him the victory. As a conqueror He planted His banner on the eternal heights. Was there not joy among angels? All heaven triumphed in the savior's victory. Satan was defeated, and knew that his kingdom was lost.[6]

What an amazing Grace-for an amazing victory! To the repenting sinner this is good news. Are you a real sinner? God's Grace is sufficient for all!

[5] Ellen G. White, *Amazing Grace,* P.22

[6] Gould Harmon, *Yesterday Today and Forever p.191,* Everlasting Gospel publishing Association, Seoul, Korea, n 2008

2

God's power to give us victory over sin

(Consider Titus 2:11-14)

Only by the Grace of God can aged men (Titus 2:2) aged women (verse 3), young women, young men (v.6) and slaves can (v.9) each fulfill the responsibilities of his particular status in life. The triumphant note in Paul's gospel that men and women do find victory over sin, that the Christ-like life, once revealed in flesh and blood, may be duplicated in every spirit-motivated man or woman. Every command in God is accompanied by His grace the power to fulfill His purposes see 2 Corinthians 12:9; Hebrews 13:9 [7]

[7] SDA Bible commentary vol. 7 p.366.5

God's power to make us effective witnesses (2 Thessalonians 1:11-12)

Grace is the means by which the Lord makes His gospel effective in our lives.

The burden of Christ's preaching was, "the time is fulfilled, and the kingdom is at hand: repent ye, and believe the gospel." Thus the gospel message, as given by the savior Himself, was based on the prophecies.[8]

Theology became life in the birth, life, ministry, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. As we have seen, it all happened on the tick of prophecy, and in context and sequence events, personnel and circumstances detailed before by Old Testament prophets. [9]

When time came to its fullness Christ came unto our world. "His name shall be called Immanuel, . . . God with us." "The light of the knowledge of the glory of God" is seen "in the face of Jesus Christ." From the days of eternity the Lord Jesus Christ was one with the Father; He

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[8] Gould Harmon, *Yesterday, Today, and forever p. 123.,* Everlasting gospel publishing Association Korea 2008

[9] David Marshall, *Apocalypse p 83,* Autumn House, Grantham, Lincolnshire, England, 2000.

was "the image of God," the image of His greatness and majesty, "the outshining of His glory." It was to manifest this glory that He came to our world. To this sin-darkened earth He came to reveal the light of God's love,--to be "God with us." Therefore it was prophesied of Him, "His name shall be called Immanuel."

By coming to dwell with us, Jesus was to reveal God both to men and to angels. He was the Word of God,--God's thought made audible. In His prayer for His disciples He says, "I have declared unto them Thy name,"--"merciful and gracious, long-suffering, and abundant in goodness and truth,"--"that the love wherewith Thou hast loved Me may be in them, and I in them." But not alone for His earthborn children was this revelation given. Our little world is the lesson book of the universe. God's wonderful purpose of grace, the mystery of redeeming love, is the theme into which "angels desire to look," and it will be their study throughout endless ages. Both the redeemed.[10]

Jesus, while He dwelt on earth, dignified life in all its details by keeping before men the glory of God, and by subordinating everything to the will of His Father. If we follow His example, His assurance to us is that all things needful in this life "shall be added." Poverty or wealth,

[10] Ellen G. White, *Desire of ages,* P. 19

sickness or health, simplicity or wisdom—all are provided for in the promise of His grace. Difficulties will be powerless to hinder him who is determined to seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness.... Looking to Jesus,... the believer will willingly brave contempt and derision. And help and grace sufficient for every circumstance are promised by Him whose word is truth. His everlasting arms encircle the soul that turns to Him for aid. In His care we may rest safely, saying, "What time I am afraid, I will trust in thee" (Psalm 56:3).[11]

[11] Ellen G. White *Amazing Grace,* P.21

3

Grace is all you need

"Being justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus." Romans3:24

In many of His parables, Christ uses the expression, "the kingdom of heaven," to designate the work of divine grace upon the hearts of men.... The kingdom of grace was instituted immediately after the fall of man, when a plan was devised for the redemption of the guilty race. It then existed in the purpose and by the promise of God; and through faith, men could become its subjects.[12]

Grace is important to every man because we all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God," and the only way to come back is by "being justified by Grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus."- Romans 3:23,24.

[12] Ellen G White Amazing Grace P.23

This redeeming grace is freely provided by "God our savior; who will have all men to be saved, and to come unto the knowledge of the truth."- 1 Timothy 2:3, 4.

Salvation is God's gift given unto us, given by His grace, His generosity. We can't earn it no matter what we do, it is the gift of God-not by works, and so no one can boast (Ephesians 2:9)

It is God's grace that puts man in a position to experience salvation- a position we could ever do that would make God indebted to us, nor is there anything we could ever do that would make us equal to His righteous perfection. Without His grace, we have no hope! But God' grace doesn't save us by force without our consent. It provides us the opportunity to be saved.[13]

Redeeming grace, in Paul's teachings, is freely offered to all men and repeatedly touches men's hearts by the promptings of the Spirit of grace. Just when do these frequent appeals cease to be made? We do not know; but a man can repeatedly refuse or ignore them till at last he

[13] Gebre Worancha, *Life or Death-Your Choice p.76.2,* Everlasting Gospel publishing Association, Seoul, Korea, 2014.

is left as pitiful unpardonable sinner, with darkness in his soul.[14]

[14] Harry W. Lowe, *Redeeming grace,* P.73

4

Right on time

The plan for our redemption was not an afterthought, a plan formulated after the fall of Adam. It was a revelation of "the mystery which hath been kept in silence through times eternal." Rom. 16:25, R. V. It was an unfolding of the principles that from eternal ages have been the foundation of God's throne. From the beginning, God and Christ knew of the apostasy of Satan, and of the fall of man through the deceptive power of the apostate. God did not ordain that sin should exist, but He foresaw its existence, and made provision to meet the terrible emergency. So great was His love for the world, that He covenanted to give His only-begotten Son, "that

whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life." John 3:16[15]

As soon as there was sin, there was a Saviour. Christ knew that He would have to suffer, yet He became man's substitute. As soon as Adam sinned, the Son of God presented Himself as surety for the human race, with just as much power to avert the doom pronounced upon the guilty as when He died upon the cross of Calvary. What love! What amazing condescension! The King of glory proposes to humble Himself to fallen humanity! He would place His feet in Adam's steps. He would take man's fallen nature, and engage to cope with the strong foe who triumphed over Adam. He would overcome Satan, and in thus doing He would open the way for the redemption from the disgrace of Adam's failure and fall, of all those who would believe on Him.[16]

Faith is a gift from God. Even if we obey perfectly from now on, we do not deserve a reward (see Luke 17:10).

Luke 17:10

[15] Ellen G. *White Desire of ages,* P.22

[16] Ellen G White, *Amazing Grace,* P. 23

"*So likewise ye, when ye shall have done all those things which are commanded you, say, We are unprofitable servants: we have done that which was our duty to do."*

Faith makes things possible. Salvation comes by (means of Grace) through (the way of faith). In other words, grace does not save us without faith-without our want. Regardless of the ever presence or availability of grace, it all depends on one's wish to be saved. Grace makes salvation possible.[17] Salvation came on time we receive it in the faith of Christ Jesus.

[17] Gebre Worancha, *Life or Death-Your Choice P.75.4,* Everlasting Gospel publishing Association, Seoul, Korea, 2014.

5

Keep in line or else...

When we speak of a man who has sinned beyond grace, like Pharaoh or Judas, we mean a person who, in the New Testament language, has committed blasphemy against the Holy Spirit. This is said in Mathew 12:31, 32 to be unforgivable. So long as man is concerned over the Holy spirit's appeals, he has not committed the unpardonable sin.

Redeeming grace, in Paul's teachings, is freely offered to all men and repeatedly touches m's hearts by the promptings of the Spirit of grace. Just when do these frequent appeals cease to be made? We do not know; but a man can repeatedly refuse or ignore them till at last he is left as pitiful unpardonable sinner, with darkness in his soul.

There are none hardened as those who have slighted the invitation of mercy, and done despite to the spirit of grace. The most common manifestation of sin against the Holy Spirit is in persistently slighting Heaven's invitation t repent. Every step in the rejection of Christ is a step forward rejection of salvation, and toward the sin against the Holy Spirit.[18]

Small wonder that the great apostle of grace, to whose writings we have confined ourselves in this chapter, sounds this solemn warning: "Grieve not the Holy Spirit of God, whereby ye are sealed unto the day of redemption." Ephesians 4:30. "Never hurt the Holy Spirit. He is, remember, the personal pledge of your eventual full redemption."[19]

[18] Ellen G White, Desire of ages p. 324

[19] Phillips. -*Redeeming grace*-Harry W. Lowe P.73

6

Once for all

God's plan of redemption is that by the blood of Christ (the only one He sent) all may be saved from eternal death. In other words, without partiality God did this for all the world.

See John 3:16-18 as shown below

3:16For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.

3:17 For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved.

3:18 He that believeth on him is not condemned: but he that believeth not is condemned already,

because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God- John 3:16-18.

Not only does God have the power to save us, but He has the desire to do it. It is His will that all should come to repentance and be saved. What produces repentance in the life? Paul assures us that "the goodness of God leadeth thee to repentance." Romans 2:4. How many does He lead toward repentance? Everyone, of course, since it is His will to save all. Christ said, "I, if I be lifted up from the earth, will draw all men unto me." John 12:32. His love does not appeal to a select few only, but to ALL men. His goodness LEADS every soul to repent, and His love DRAWS all men to the cross. If this is true, why are not all men saved? It is because they resist the sweet drawing influence of the Holy Spirit. There is absolutely no doubt that God actively seeks the salvation of every soul on planet earth, and He will continue to convict those who have not hardened themselves in unbelief.

What a thought! The difficult thing to do is to fight against salvation. Unless we resist, God will persist in drawing us to Himself. "For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men." Titus 2:11. To how many men? ALL men! Hebrews 2:9 says that Jesus tasted death "for every man." Again, "God was in Christ,

reconciling the world unto himself." 2 Corinthians 5:19. The only reason all the world is not saved is simply because the great majority resists God's provision of saving, sanctifying grace.

So the really hard thing about the way of transgression is the binding hold that sin has fastened on the mind and body. This is why it is easier for the unconverted to continue their course than to turn from death to life. There is nothing within them capable of challenging the will of the flesh. But we affirm just as confidently that the born-again Christian will quickly grow to abhor sin, and will find it an absolutely miserable act to compromise the conscience by willful disobedience.

So, what is the answer to the question, Is it easier to be saved or to be lost? We must truthfully say that it is difficult to make the initial turn from the self-life, but after the heart is surrendered, the path of the Christian, in every way, is happier and easier to maintain. Let's consider the theology behind this glorious fact.

The Bible speaks of "being justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus: Whom God hath set forth to be a propitiation through faith in his blood, to declare his righteousness for the remission of sins that are past, through the forbearance of God; To

declare, I say, at this time his righteousness, that he might be just, and the justifier of him which believeth in Jesus." Romans 3:24-26.

Please notice that only those who "believe in Jesus" will be personally justified, even though the cross provides it for everyone. The text says there must be "faith in his blood." The utility company provides abundant power and light to my home, but I receive no benefit whatever unless I push the switches in my home. All of God's saving; cleansing, justifying power is of no benefit to me in salvation unless I accept it in a personal way.[20]

Faith is needed. Grace is the flowing fountain and faith is the mouth that drinks it, if a man does not respond by faith, it means that the saving power of Grace is not saving him. The Bible is talking about believing in John 3:16. For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life"- John 3:16

[20] Joe Crews, *is it easier to be saved or to be lost?* Amazing Facts Roseville, CA. USA.

7

A new beginning

Just as light is the opposite of darkness, life is the opposite of death. To be saved is to believe in the saving power of God. This raises an important question. What is salvation? This refers to the Christian doctrine of salvation. The word "salvation" concerns an eternal, spiritual deliverance. "salvation" is the universal theme of the scripture. When Paul told the Philippian jailer what he must do to be saved, he was referring to the jailer's eternal destiny (Acts 16:30-31). Jesus equated being saved with entering the kingdom of God (Matthew 19:24-25).

What are we saved from? In the Christian doctrine of salvation, we are saved from "wrath," that is, from God's judgment of sin (Rom 5:9; 1 Thessalonians 5:9). Our sin has separated us from God (Isaiah 59:2), and the consequence of this very sin is death (Rom 6:33a). Biblical salvation refers to our deliverance from the consequence

of sin therefore involves the removal of sin. humanity needs salvation.[21]

God has made ample provision that we may stand perfect in His grace, wanting in nothing, waiting for the appearing of our Lord. Are you ready? Have you the wedding garment on? That garment will never cover deceit, impurity, corruption, or hypocrisy. The eye of God is upon you. It is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart. We may conceal our sins from the eyes of men, but we can hide nothing from our Maker.

Let the youth and the little children be taught to choose for themselves that royal robe woven in heaven's loom—the "fine linen, clean and white," which all the holy ones of earth will wear. This robe, Christ's own spotless character, is freely offered to every human being. But all who receive it will receive and wear it here.[22]

God is our eternal father. In the story of the lost son (Luke 15:11-32), the father had never given up on His wayward son. Day after day his eyes scanned the road from the Far Country, peering into every dustcloud for the shape appeared, he barely recognized it: unkempt,

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[21] Gebre Worancha, *Life or Death-Your Choice P.75.4,* Everlasting Gospel publishing Association, Seoul, Korea, 2014.

[22] Ellen G. White, *Amazing Grace*, P.24

haggard, in rags. The scars of sin warp, distort and disfigure. But as soon as the light of recognition came into the father's eye *"he ran…"*

Then He gave instructions to his servants: 'Quick!' Bring the best robe and put on him.' Having consigned the boy's sins to oblivion, the Father was giving him a robe, symbolizing a righteousness that was not his own. 'Put a ring on his finger and sandals, worn only by family members, indicated that he was being accepted back as a son, not as a slave or hired man.

It was then that the father called a party. When a sinner returns home, heaven is put on red-alert, party footing!

But not everyone was happy about this arrangement. There was an elder brother in the story. He had never left home. He heard the rumble of the party as he returned from the field and was angry.

Sinners who return and are sorry for their sins are declared righteous through the Grace of God (Rom. 5:1, 2). It was this very thing that the elder brother couldn't handle. Jesus introduced the elder brother into the story to represent self-righteous people. They would rather wastrel sons didn't return; but, if they did, they insisted

that they should earn repentance by performance, achievement, hard work.

But we are 'saved by grace through faith', not by track record (Eph. 2:8, 9). To say that we are saved by faith alone is another way of saying that we are saved by Christ alone. Faith has no value in itself. The only value it has is in the object. Christ is the object. Christ is the treasure; faith is only the hand that grasps Him. Christ is the water of life; faith is only the mouth that drinks Him. Christ is the Lamb of God slain on the cross; faith is the eye that beholds Him. Christ is the Rock of ages; faith is only the foot that stands on Him. To say that we are saved by faith alone is another way of saying that we are saved by Christ alone, saved by what Christ did for us on Calvary: He died the dead we deserve.[23]

What an amazing grace! What a new beginning he brought to the repenting sinner! Are you ready? Change the direction and begin a new life in Christ Today.

The elder brother can't swallow that theology. They believe in do-it-yourself salvation. And this elder brother was angry and would not go in to the party (Luke 15:28). But his father came to reason with him. The son

[23] David Marshall, *Apocalypse p.25,* Autumn House, Grantham, Lincolnshire, England, 2000.

said, in effect, 'Dad, I have kept all your commandments. Didn't want to! But I have! And this is how you repay me…'

The elder brother had done many right things but from wrong motives. He could not enter into his father's joy that the younger son had returned.

What an insight into the father's heart! Great good news! Good news about our wonderful, all loving heavenly father.

When you think of God in connection with anything else-think of Him as the Father with *the* out-stretched arms, welcoming returning sons and daughters.[24]

This leads to a new beginning for returning sons and daughters.

[24] David Marshall, *Apocalypse p.25,* Autumn House, Grantham, Lincolnshire, England, 2000.

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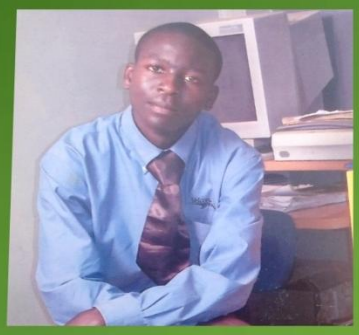

Kevin Harvestbell is the author and compiler of this book. He dedicates it to all who accept God's grace by grasping it in the faith of Christ.

It is God's design that this longing of the human heart should lead to the One who alone is able to satisfy it. The desire is of Him that it may lead to Him, the fullness and fulfillment of that desire. That fullness is found in Jesus the Christ, the Son of the Eternal God. "For it was the good pleasure of the Father that in Him should all the fullness dwell;" "for in Him dwelleth all the fullness of the Godhead bodily." And it is also true that "in Him ye are made full" with respect to every desire divinely implanted and normally followed.